

Government Advisory Committee  
TBPE  
January 25, 2013  
UT Thompson Conference Center

Attending: (full list is on attendance log)

Minor Hibbs - TCEQ  
Wade McClaren - DFW  
Randall Childers - City of Waco, representing BOAT  
Mike Noth, LCRA, generation of electricity  
Ramon Navarro, LCRA  
Scott Elmer, Missouri City

Victoria Li, COA, chair

Priscilla Pipho, Deputy Executive Director, staff

Vote to accept minutes from last meeting: Childress/McLaren Passed.

Update from staff on legislative and Sunset issues. The committee had questions about the fingerprinting requirement and asked if there are there other ways to satisfy requirement; police; handgun;  
Asked if staff could let them know when the Sunset bill comes out and would like to see the draft of the bill.

Asked if TBPE staff has surveyed the Texas PEs about BS + 30 to see what they think. Wanted to know why NCEES sees a need to make this change. Discussion of need for new engineers and hoping this requirement would not impeded graduation rates. Questions about what new engineers need to know and what a curriculum would look like. Discussion of softer skills for engineers to learn how to interact with and manage people.

Discussion of strengthening continuing education requirement with a stronger/better definition that gives engineers more guidance. Not as far as precertifying.

EWeek Discussion:

Several members of the committee have participated in eWeek and there was a great deal of enthusiasm for the work that they do. City of Austin has been involved and including a project where they created rain gardens. City staff went to elementary and middle schools - working with PTA and volunteer engineer design with AutoCad.

Strategic Plan and outreach:

Consider having our outreach posted on a calendar for other PEs to come to the class;

Other issues raised by committee for discussion:

Dam Safety criteria - city of Austin; TCEQ might be interested; state's rule; don't want to have dams over-designed;

Do other cities charge drainage fees? Class action law firms are looking at the way drainage issues are done.

If you are interested in learning how COA does capital improvement process, trying to coordinate priority projects; including budgeting we created a very smart system. If anyone is interested Victoria will be willing to share.

Issues for Joint Meeting

- BS + 30 and how the school systems are looking at it
- Fingerprinting issue
- Enforcement issues?

City of McAllen - PEs stamping plans with Landscape Architect; exemption; VL: make sure our PEs are working in areas that they are competent; e.g, drainage in a landscape; PEs should know what they are good and competent to do.

Next meeting have CW give an update on the Complaint Process - perception is that people think they should have all the investigation completed before they submit the complaint to the Board; that if they don't the complaint won't be turned into a case.

Date Committee approved as submitted:

May 31, 2013

Date Board accepted:

August 29, 2013